

## **Pets** Listen to the text a few times.

Many people like to keep pets. Some have one pet while other people keep many different pets. If a person lives in a small house, or even a flat or apartment, they cannot keep a lot of pets as there is not much room. If people live in a big house that has a garden then they can keep more pets and bigger pets.

For a person who lives in a small house a small pet is often good. They can keep a bird or two. Birds are very interesting pets. They have colorful feathers and they chirp all day long. If you have a parrot it can even learn to talk, but it takes a long time to teach it to say some words. If a bird is too noisy then they can keep some cute animals like mice, gerbils or hamsters. These are all nice and fluffy so you can take them out of their cages and play with them. Fish are also a type of pet for people without much space or time. They just need some food and you must clean their bowl or tank sometimes.

People that have more space and time to look after a pet can keep a bigger pet. A pet that needs more care, a dog or cat. You don't need to look after cats very much, but they are lonely if there is no one there with them. They like to have someone who sits with them and who strokes them. This makes them happy and they start to purr. If someone has a dog they need to take it out for walks so that it has exercise. It is good to take a dog out twice a day. Dogs need exercise. They cannot stay in the house all the time.

There are then pets that need a lot of space. Horses, donkeys, or a domestic pig, for example. For these animals a person needs more than a big garden, they need a field so the animal has space to move and run around, as well as grass to eat. These are animals that don't come into the house and the owners spend only part of the day with them. They live outside and so they are not really pets.